Amendments To the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~The aim of the invention is to exchange~~ A method for exchanging data between an external device and applications installed on network elements of a packet-switching network by means of at least one tunnel connection, including . ~~Said aim is achieved by~~ connecting each network element to a network node device that is part of the tunnel connection while a global address is unambiguously assigned to the terminal point of the tunneled connection, ~~which is located~~ at the network end. The network node device forms the terminal point of the tunnel connection, ~~which is located at the network end,~~ if several network elements jointly utilize the ~~said~~ tunnel connection, but one of the network elements establishing a tunnel connection and forming the terminal point at the network end with ~~thereof if thesaid~~ the network element assigned ~~requires~~ a global address for executing an application, ~~a time during which~~ if thesaid tunnel connection is used exclusively by thesaid one network element. ~~while all data is routed through the network node device.~~